

CONCLUSION

Petersburg National Battlefield is set aside for the public to reflect upon the significance of the events that occurred here. Petersburg National Battlefield is a memorial to those who made the supreme sacrifice and is a reminder of the horrors of war.

Presently, the battlefield's landscape only partially portrays the vastness of the siege that occurred here in 1864-65. Still, within the boundaries of the park are many of the significant sites, original earthworks and fortifications, which are associated with the siege.

Earthwork management is fundamental to meeting the expectations of the visitors and to fulfilling the purpose of the park. This does come at a price; earthwork management cannot be a "hands-off" approach. The park feels the concept of letting the forest grow over the battlefield landscape and fortifications is unacceptable.

Preserving the earthworks and associated battlefield landscapes in a manner that the events of history can be perceived by the visitor is the best management practice.

